

# LONG ISLAND COMPUTER ASSOCIATION



## LICA

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Volume 5 Number 10

THE STACK

October, 1981

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Officers:

President	Mark Zeiger
Vice-President	Dave Minott
Secretary	Harvey Fishman
Treasurer	Aileen Harrison

STACK Editor:

Al Stone

CBRS (516) 561-6590

STACK Address:  
3788 Windsor Drive  
Bethpage, NY 11714  
(516) 731-1649

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Never let it be said that LICA won't go to great lengths to get speakers. As most of you know by now, we went all the way to Scotland last week. And if the integrity of Sinclair Research is like that of its director of U.S. operations, Nigel Searle, then it's a company with which I would feel quite safe doing business. It is also nice to see somebody advancing their product line while at the same time lowering their prices. I have a feeling we're going to be seeing a great deal of interesting products evolving from Sinclair Research.

Most of the general membership also attended the S-100 meeting to hear about IBM's new toy. The reaction did not seem all that positive, but people in the know tell me that IBM will sell because of their name - and I'm sure they're correct. I think the real exciting things are going to come from the Japanese, and in the next year or two we're going to be in for a few surprises from the East.

I have some news that's a little bit sad for most of us. Hans Napfel's firm is relocating and he is going to be moving to Florida shortly. Hans has been a real asset to LICA over the years. He has served as President and ran a really great hardware course this year. Most of us have also been entertained by his annual slide show over the past few years. But most important, Hans is just a great fellow to be with and talk to. I'm sure I speak for all of us in wishing Hans good luck in his new home. I've taken the liberty of making Hans an honorary member of LICA so that he can keep getting the STACK and know what is going on in his old stomping grounds (But if you move back to N.Y., Hans, we'll expect you to pay your dues again!).

Next month the TBS-80 subgroup is going to give the feature presentation at

the general meeting. I really feel that it's about time we all got to know a little bit about what the other fellow is doing. I'd also like to see more active 6502 subgroup and would hope that they could do the same in the future.

My term as President of the club is drawing to a close. I think my big failure as the leader of this group was that I was not able get more members to take an active part in the club activities. I feel that LICA has a great deal to offer its members, but the initiative must come from all of us and not just a handful. If you have never contributed to the STACK, or never offered a program for the CBBS, or never offered to speak at a meeting, or never offered to help out in a small way, then you haven't done your part. If you want the club to succeed, you are going to have to work for it. One of the problems is just getting members to come down to meetings. A number of people have told me that they will come to a meeting only if the presentation for the month is of interest to them. Obviously nobody can make them come down, but if everyone has this attitude then why should the leadership go to the trouble of arranging activities. I would not want to ask somebody to talk to the group if I was not sure we were going to have a respectable turnout at the meeting. Again - if you do not want this club to fail, then decide that you're going to work for it and take an active part in its everyday running. I hope the next President will have more success in this area than I did. If anybody is interested in taking on the job, please speak to me about it. I'll let you know what the duties are and what some of the problems might be. Nominations will be held during the November meeting, but I would be disappointed if we had to go around the room nominating people only to have them decline again and again. I hope somebody really wants the job and will take it seriously.

Hope to see you all on October 16.

Mark

#### MONTHLY MEETING

Our general membership meetings, where the cross-pollination of ideas and the freest interchange of data occurs are scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on the third Friday of each month in Room 508, Building 500, the New York Institute of Technology, Old Westbury Campus.

#### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

S-100 Users' Group - These folks gather at the same time and location as the general meeting, except their meeting is held one week earlier on the second Friday evening. During certain of the months there is a general discussion, rather than a featured speaker. Each attendee has the opportunity to learn from others in the areas of special applications, hardware, software, or what have you.

#### TRS-80 USERS' GROUP

Please note that this sub-group meets twice monthly, at 7:00 p.m. on both the second and third Fridays of the month at NYIT.

The four most active sub-groups can be contacted through their chairmen:

S-100 Users' Group	--- Auguste Schwab, Jr.	(516) 374-4168
TRS-80 Users' Group	--- Bob Zito	(516) 822-031
6502 Users' Group	--- Steve Perry	(516) 744-462
680x Users' Group	--- Roger Kaucher	(516) 796-746

#### WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Each weekend, when I return from my business in Connecticut, I find a large number of messages relating to inquiries that my wife lodged for L.I.C.A. and for The STACK during the preceeding week. More and more these messages are tending to fall into a small number of very predictable categories. First, there is the never-ending parade of newcomers to microcomputing, the men and women with their first TRS-80, or APPLE, or newly-acquired used Vector Graphic box. These folks are always welcome, and I never get tired of hearing their reaction to the fact that we have three hundred persons on our mailing list, and that there are at least two other systems just like theirs among the vast collection of electronic stuff our members own. The second most frequently encountered message is somewhat less gratifying. These are the comments that the club doesn't cater to the caller's particular special interest, or that the temporary predominance of users of one type of equipment is not to their liking. These are the "belly-acher" calls. These are the calls I really can't do too much about. My usual answer is that because of my unique perspective as Editor of The STACK, I am generally aware of all of the activities within L.I.C.A., both the organized ones and those that are of an informal nature. I can truthfully say that whatever your interests within the microcomputing area (hardware or software), it's happening among our members. If you've got some special knowledge, why not share it with us? If you seek some special information, just ask... you'll be surprised just what we can come up with.

#### BASIC-80 RANDOM FUNCTION TEST

Bob Kowitt sent the following letter to Lifelines Magazine on August 1st:

To the Editor:

I really have nothing but admiration for James R. Reinders' industry in programming a true random function for Microsoft Basic. I do find fault, however, with the concept of taking a 747 jet liner to get from Brooklyn to the Bronx.

I am, therefore, enclosing my BASIC sub-routine for arriving at a true random number, in the interpreted or compiled version of BASIC-80, which is shorter, simpler and much more versatile.

```
10 'RandomFunction Test
20
30 DEFINT N
40 GOSUB 180
50 PRINT INT(RND*100)
50 END
60 *****
180 PRINT "PRESS THE SPACE BAR WHEN YOU ARE READY":
PRINT
181 N=RND
182 N=N*2:
IF N>32000 THEN N=N/3
183 IF INKEY$<CHR$(32) THEN 182
184 N=INT(N):
RANDOMIZE(N)
185 RETURN
```

WORKSHOP NOTICE

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Metro TRS-80 Users Group and Stony Clove Computer Center  
are co-sponsoring a free workshop on:

### Getting Started With DOS

for TRS-80 users who have recently upgraded to disk  
or are contemplating doing so in the near future.

The workshop will be conducted by:  
Barry Kornfeld, Pres. Metro TRS-80 Users Group.

Time: Wednesday October 21 - 7:00 PM  
Place: Stony Clove Computer Center  
260 West 39th Street - 3rd Floor  
(just East of 8th Ave)  
New York City, NY 10018

If you have any questions regarding this workshop call:  
Stony Clove Computer Center at (212) 391-8337

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#### CLASSIFIED NOTICES

SEUGART disk drive alignment and repair by Computer Corrector. Contact Steve Metal. (516) 499-1135

Services - Accounting, record-keeping, & tax services provided weekly, monthly, or quarterly -- basis to suit. Sales tax, employer wage forms, bank records, cash receipts and disbursements journals, general ledgers, etc. Small business and personal accounts invited. Aileen Harrison (516) 938 6769

For Sale - ALKEN Selectric I/O writer with parallel interface, driver software and yellow formica deep-well table. Al Stone. (516) 731-1649

#### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING POLICY

In an effort to cover our costs of duplication and mailing, and to provide a more extensive monthly edition of The STACK, commercial display ads are accepted in 1/4, 1/2 and full-page sizes. Minimum participation is for three months, and the three month rates are \$45, \$65, and \$100 respectively. Copy need not be the same each month. Camera-ready material must be accompanied by checks payable to LICA.

The LONG ISLAND COMPUTER ASSOCIATION is open to anyone, amateur or professional, with an interest in computers, computer applications, programming, or related subjects. Dues are \$10 per year, which includes monthly issues of this publication, The STACK.

The STACK is also mailed to other computer clubs on an exchange basis, as well as to various technical publishers. Permission for reprinting or quoting items appearing in The STACK is granted providing that credit is given, and that a copy of the reprinted data or information is sent to The STACK.

Members can vote in club elections, and place non-commercial classified ads without charge, and commercial ads at nominal cost.

Member articles and other data affecting The STACK must be received no later than the last calendar day of the month prior to publication. As your editor is self-employed, and travels virtually all of the time, telephoning or using the CBBS (LIMBS) as a means of contact are not recommended.

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